

County Connection

JULY 2010

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Graduate

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Movie in the Park

Submitted by Roger Adams

Our first "Movie in the Park" was a big hit with over 300 people in attendance. The next movie, *The Blind Side*, is scheduled to show Friday, July 16, so be sure to mark your calendar.

Movie in the Park is co-sponsored by Movie Town and Woodall's Music. Popcorn, candy, cookies and drinks will all be available for purchase for \$1 each. The movie will start at approximately 9:00 pm, but you can arrive early to hear some great music. If the parking lot is full at Jack Dalton, you can park in the Administration Building parking lot and walk up the steps behind the building.



Garrett Awarded Fire Safety Commendation Medal

By Dale Wagoner



Lisa Garrett, Assistant Fire Marshal, was recently awarded the Fire Safety Commendation Medal from the Col. George Waller Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. This award is given to an individual for accomplishments and/or outstanding contributions in an area of fire safety and service.

Lisa has worked for Public Safety since December 2003. In addition to fire investigations and inspections, Lisa coordinates the County's fire prevention and public education programs for the department. One program that she manages is the "Get Alarmed, Henry County" program, that provides free smoke detectors to any resident of Henry County. There have been 20 documented fires where a life was saved because of this program.

Additionally, Lisa coordinates fire safety programs presented to each county and city elementary school. She fostered the cooperation between Henry County Public Safety and Martinsville Fire Department to provide fire safety education to all elementary students in both localities. She also conducts fire prevention seminars to adults and senior citizen groups.

Lisa is a valuable asset to Public Safety and to the community in which she serves. Congratulations to Lisa on receiving this commendation.

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Congratulations to William Moore

William Thomas Moore graduated May 15 from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences with an emphasis on immunology and pre-medical studies. He was named to the dean's list for the spring semester and is a member of the



Virginia Medical Student Association and the Chi Alpha Christian fellowship. In addition, William served on the women's issues committee of the Young Democrats of Virginia Tech, of which he was a member. He plans to pursue a master's degree through the Department of Biological Sciences at Fort Hays State University in Kansas, where he has been offered a graduate teaching assistantship. William is the grandson of Reba Boyd, Commissioner of Revenue's office.

Play it Safe this Fourth of July

By Lisa Garrett

The Henry County Department of Public Safety would like to remind everyone to focus on fire safety when fireworks are involved. Every year in the United States, we celebrate the Fourth of July with community parades, picnics, barbecues, and fireworks - the things of which happy memories are made. But sadly, Independence Day also includes tragic events resulting from fireworks use. Statistics show an estimated 30,100 fires and \$34M in direct property losses occur each year because of fireworks. In 2008, there were 7,000 injuries and seven fireworks-related deaths. The safest way to enjoy them is through public displays conducted by professional pyrotechnicians hired by local communities. Learning fireworks safety tips can help ensure that everyone has a happy and safe summer holiday.

Among the various types of fireworks, some of which are sold legally in some states, bottle rockets can fly into peoples' faces and cause eye injuries; sparklers can ignite clothing; and firecrackers can injure the hands or face if they explode at close range.

- The best way to protect your family is not to use any fireworks at home — period. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals.
- Kids should never play with fireworks. Sparklers can reach 2,000°F — hot enough to melt some metals.
- Steer clear of others — fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction. Never throw or point fireworks at someone, even in jest.
- Don't allow kids to pick up pieces of fireworks after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode at any time.
- Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be extremely frightened or stressed on the Fourth of July. Keep pets indoors to reduce the risk that they'll run loose or get injured.

FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY

Fireworks



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New Traffic Laws Take Effect July 1

Submitted by Tim Byrd

Effective Thursday, July 1st, two new traffic safety laws in Virginia will help to protect not only tow truck drivers and highway workers but also help to ensure that 16- and 17-year old passengers are buckled up. AAA Mid Atlantic and other transportation safety advocates strongly supported both bills which they feel will help save lives on the roadways of the Commonwealth.

During the 2010 session, Virginia lawmakers voted to expand the state's "Move Over" law to include protection for tow truck drivers and highway workers who display amber colored flashing lights. The current law applies only to motorists approaching emergency vehicles displaying red or blue flashing lights, which are generally displayed by police, fire and rescue vehicles. The new law mandates that motorists, approaching a tow truck or highway maintenance vehicle displaying amber lights, change lanes away from the flashing lights, if possible to do so safely, and/or proceed with caution given the prevailing highway conditions. When the new law goes into effect on July 1, Virginia will join 38 other states that already recognize the dangers faced by these individuals and the need to give them added protection while they work. The offense is punishable as a traffic infraction.

The second change affecting motorist safety will require 16- and 17-year old passengers to wear seat belts in the back seats of vehicles and subject them to primary enforcement for lack of seat belt use in any passenger seat.

Please pass this information along to your family and friends that may not be aware of these changes in Virginia traffic laws.

I hope everyone will enjoy a safe and fun Independence Day holiday. Take your safety sense along for the ride, while grilling those burgers, enjoying time at the pool or lake, or whatever you choose to do with your holiday. Enjoy the freedoms provided to us by the actions of brave men and women throughout our history and today.

(Source – Martinsville Bulletin)

Anthem Update

The Mental Health Parity Act (MHP) is one of several federal Health Care Reform laws enacted February 2, 2010. The Act requires "parity" or uniformity between the financial requirements and treatment limitations applied to medical or surgical benefits, and mental health and substance abuse disorder benefits. As a result, the following benefit changes will be made to the outpatient mental health and substance abuse benefits effective July 1, 2010:

Mental Health/ Substance Use Disorder Benefit
Outpatient In-Network
Existing Benefits
Facility: (\$100 copay/ 20% coinsurance)
Professional: (\$50 copay)
Compliant Benefits
Facility: (\$0 copay/ 0% coinsurance)
Professional: (0% copay)

Any guesses on who this is?



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Employee Scene



Rick Keaton joined Henry County in 1994; 16 years later, Rick still helps keep the building and grounds in tip-top shape.

What is your most memorable experience on the job? Watching Wayne get soaked in the dunking booth

What is the most embarrassing/unforgettable thing that has happened to you or something your children have done/said to embarrass you? When Benny took the Maintenance Department to Ryan's for lunch and he told them it was my birthday

How did you meet your spouse?

It was 1982 at Country Restaurant where I met my beautiful wife, Phyllis.

Do you have any hobbies/pastimes? Working in my garden

Where is your favorite place to eat?

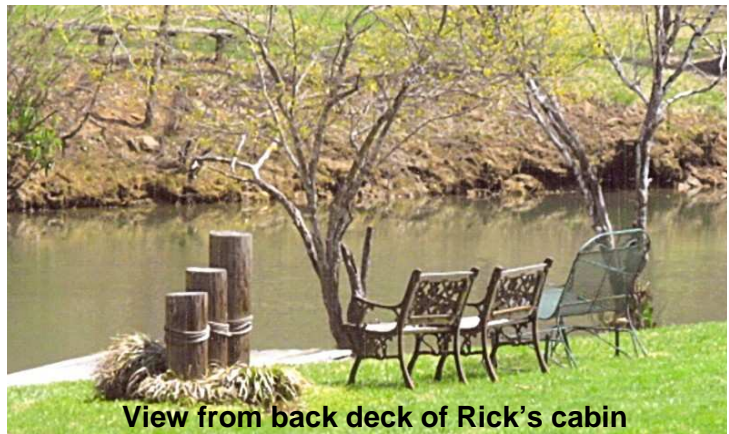
On the back deck of my cabin

Do you have any vacation plans this summer?

Enjoying the water passing by on the deck of my cabin

What would you do if you won the lottery?

I would take all of my friends on a trip to the Bahamas...to see the oil spill.



View from back deck of Rick's cabin



Area Paddlers Receive Training in River Rescue

Members of local paddling clubs converged on the Smith River below Martinsville Dam on June 20 for an all-day river rescue class lead by Edgar Peck, Swift Water Rescue Instructor for "Get Outdoors in Greensboro."

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July Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Steve Isom	2 Randall Helbert	3 Elmer Hagood
4	5	6 Barry Shively	7 Carole Jones Mark Davis	8	9 Roudy Roudabush Kevin Clark Roger Adams	10
11 Jack Shelton David White	12	13 Steve Patterson	14	15 Wes Ashley	16 Shirley Painter	17 Mike Hooper
18 David Hale Kenneth Via Richard Stanfield	19 Nate Riddle	20 Ricky Shelton	21	22 Gail Minter Hub Hubbard	23	24
25	26	27 Davis Pilson Eddie Hankins	28 Joel Bateman	29	30	31 Tony Turner Justin Pruitt